



Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An optical multi-beam scanning device, comprising:
 - a plurality of light sources;
 - pre-deflection optical units for giving a predetermined property to light beams from the light sources, the pre-deflection optical units corresponding to the light sources, respectively;
 - an optical path synthesizing member for aligning optical paths of the light beams from all or some of the light sources in a horizontal scanning direction after the pre-deflection optical units give the predetermined properties to the light beams or while giving them to the light beams;
 - an excessive light processing member having a multi-stage taper constitution with a plurality of taper surfaces having different tilt angles for reflecting excessive light emitted from an excessive light emitting surface which is not an incident surface nor an emitting surface of the optical path synthesizing member; and
 - a light deflecting device for deflecting the light beams from the pre-deflection optical units corresponding to the light sources to the horizontal scanning direction due to reflection from one surface.
2. (Currently Amended) The optical multi-beam scanning device according to claim 1, wherein the excessive light processing member has the taper surfaces with different angles whose number is the same as that of the optical paths ~~to be aligned by itself~~.
3. (Original) The optical multi-beam scanning device according to claim 1, wherein the tilt angles of all the taper surfaces in the excessive light processing member are set so that reflected light from the taper surfaces does not enter the excessive light emitting surface of the optical path synthesizing member.

4. (Currently Amended) An The optical multi-beam scanning device, comprising: according to claim 1, a plurality of light sources; pre-deflection optical units for giving a predetermined property to light beams from the light sources, the pre-deflection optical units corresponding to the light sources, respectively;

an optical path synthesizing member for aligning optical paths of the light beams from all or some of the light sources in a horizontal scanning direction after the pre-deflection optical units give the predetermined properties to the light beams or while giving them to the light beams;

an excessive light processing member having a multi-stage taper constitution with a plurality of taper surfaces having different tilt angles for reflecting excessive light emitted from an excessive light emitting surface which is not an incident surface nor an emitting surface of the optical path synthesizing member; and

a light deflecting device for deflecting the light beams from the pre-deflection optical units corresponding to the light sources to the horizontal scanning direction due to reflection from one surface,

wherein the tilt angles of all the taper surfaces in the excessive light processing member are set so that reflected light from the taper surfaces reenter the excessive light emitting surface of the optical path synthesizing member, and the reentered light beams have predetermined angle angles for passing through an upper or lower portion of an optical part present in a direction where the light beams emitted from the optical path synthesizing member advances.

5. (Currently Amended) An The optical multi-beam scanning device, comprising: according to claim 1, a plurality of light sources; pre-deflection optical units for giving a predetermined property to light beams from the light sources, the pre-deflection optical units corresponding to the light sources, respectively;

an optical path synthesizing member for aligning optical paths of the light beams from all or some of the light sources in a horizontal scanning direction after the pre-deflection optical units give the predetermined properties to the light beams or while giving them to the light beams;

an excessive light processing member having a multi-stage taper constitution with a plurality of taper surfaces having different tilt angles for reflecting excessive light emitted from an excessive light emitting surface which is not an incident surface nor an emitting surface of the optical path synthesizing member; and

a light deflecting device for deflecting the light beams from the pre-deflection optical units corresponding to the light sources to the horizontal scanning direction due to reflection from one surface.

wherein the tilt angles of some taper surfaces in the excessive light processing member are set so that reflected light from the taper surfaces does not enter the excessive light emitting surface of the optical path synthesizing member, and the tilt angles of the other taper surfaces are set so that the reflected light from the taper surfaces reenters the excessive light emitting surface of the optical path synthesizing member and the reentered light beams have predetermined angles for passing through an upper or lower portion of an optical part present in a direction where the light beams emitted from the optical path synthesizing member advances.

6. (Withdrawn) An optical multi-beam scanning device, comprising: a plurality of light sources; pre-deflection optical units for giving a predetermined property to light beams from the light sources, the pre-deflection optical units corresponding to the light sources, respectively; an optical path synthesizing member for aligning optical paths of the light beams from all or some of the light sources in a horizontal scanning direction after the pre-deflection optical units give the predetermined properties to the light beams or while giving them to the light beams; an excessive light processing member having an absorbing surface roughly parallel with an excessive light emitting surface for absorbing excessive light emitted from the excessive light emitting surface which is not an incident surface nor an emitting surface of the optical path synthesizing member; and a light deflecting device for

deflecting the light beams from the pre-deflection optical units corresponding to the light sources to the horizontal scanning direction due to reflection from one surface.

7. (Withdrawn) The optical multi-beam scanning device according to claim 6, wherein the absorbing surface of the excessive light processing member is formed by adhering a light absorbing sheet to the absorbing surface.

8. (Withdrawn) The optical multi-beam scanning device according to claim 6, wherein the absorbing surface of the excessive light processing member has a repeated convexo-concave pattern for reflecting and absorbing the excessive light.

9. (Withdrawn) The optical multi-beam scanning device according to claim 8, wherein the convexo-concave pattern has a shape which reflects excessive incident light three times and returns the excessive light to the excessive light emitting surface of the optical path synthesizing member.

10. (Withdrawn) The optical multi-beam scanning device according to claim 8, wherein the convexo-concave pattern has a shape which reflects excessive incident light so that the excessive incident light recedes more and more from the excessive light emitting surface of the optical path synthesizing member every time of the reflection of the excessive incident light.

11. (Withdrawn) An optical multi-beam scanning device, comprising:
a plurality of light sources;
pre-deflection optical units for giving a predetermined property to light beams from the light sources, the pre-deflection optical units corresponding to the light sources, respectively;

an optical path synthesizing member for aligning optical paths of the light beams from all or some of the light sources in a horizontal scanning direction after the pre-deflection optical units give the predetermined properties to the light beams or while giving them to the light beams;

an excessive light processing member having repeated local patterns for dispersing excessive light emitted from an excessive light emitting surface which is not an incident surface nor an emitting surface of the optical path synthesizing member; and

a light deflecting device for deflecting the light beams from the pre-deflection optical units corresponding to the light sources to the horizontal scanning direction due to reflection from one surface.

12. (Withdrawn) The optical multi-beam scanning device according to claim 11, wherein the local patterns have a semicylindrical shape and are repeated on a straight line or an arc.

13. (Withdrawn) The optical multi-beam scanning device according to claim 11, wherein the local patterns have a hemispherical shape and are repeated on a plane or a sphere.

14. (Withdrawn) The optical multi-beam scanning device according to claim 1, wherein a member for regulating the position of the optical path synthesizing member functions also as the excessive light processing member.

15. (Withdrawn) The optical multi-beam scanning device according to claim 6, wherein a member for regulating the position of the optical path synthesizing member functions also as the excessive light processing member.

16. (Withdrawn) The optical multi-beam scanning device according to claim 11, wherein a member for regulating the position of the optical path synthesizing member functions also as the excessive light processing member.

17. (Withdrawn) An image forming apparatus, comprising:
the optical multi-beam scanning device according to claim 1; and
photoreceptors having surfaces to be scanned on which latent images are formed based on light beams from the optical multi-beam scanning device.

18. (Withdrawn) An image forming apparatus, comprising:
the optical multi-beam scanning device according to claim 6; and
photoreceptors having surfaces to be scanned on which latent images are formed
based on light beams from the optical multi-beam scanning device.

19. (Withdrawn) An image forming apparatus, comprising:
the optical multi-beam scanning device according to claim 11; and
photoreceptors having surfaces to be scanned on which latent images are formed
based on light beams from the optical multi-beam scanning device.